

PHRF of EASTERN CONNECTICUT

2026 BYLAWS

Revised March 2026

ARTICLE I – NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be PHRF of Eastern Connecticut. It will be the independent performance handicapping body for the Eastern Connecticut Sailing Association (hereinafter “ECSA”) and the Eastern Long Island Yachting Association (hereinafter “ELIYA”).

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 It shall be the prime objective of this organization to establish and maintain an equitable system of handicap time correction factors for sailing yachts racing in and about Long Island Sound, Block Island Sound, Gardiners Bay, and Peconic Bay. The system shall be based primarily on observed speed potential and other factors.
- 2.2 It shall be an objective of this organization to assist yacht clubs and other race organizers in the application of its rating and handicapping systems, and to furnish information concerning the system and its application to interested yachting organizations.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The members shall consist of not more than twenty-four (24) handicappers. These handicappers shall constitute the Handicappers Council (hereinafter “Council”). Handicappers shall be selected from the general membership of ECSA and shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council at a meeting to be held in January of each year.
- 3.2 When electing handicappers, the Council shall consider each candidate’s qualifications, and if applicable, past participation and demonstrated ability as a handicapper. The Council shall also consider each candidate’s geographical location, so as to ensure effective coverage of all of eastern Long Island Sound, from Bridgeport, Connecticut, to Watch Hill, Rhode Island, Gardiners Bay, and Peconic Bay.

ARTICLE IV - MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The management of this organization is vested in the Council which shall decide all matters of policy and be responsible for implementing that policy.
- 4.2 A Chief Handicapper and up to two Assistant Chief Handicappers shall be elected from among the handicappers by the Council, at a meeting to be held in January of each year. The election of a Chief Handicapper shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of ECSA.
- 4.3 Each handicapper, including the Chief and Assistant Chief Handicappers, shall have one vote at a Council meeting.
- 4.4 A quorum for all Council meetings shall consist of six (6) handicappers.

ARTICLE V - HANDICAPS

- 5.1 The Council shall be responsible for developing and administering regulations and a system of handicaps. It shall be governed by these. The Chief Handicapper shall call and conduct meetings of the Council and shall render a final and binding decision on questions properly before the Council if not resolved by a majority vote or by general agreement.
- 5.2 Base Boat Handicap ratings shall be based on a boat's speed potential, determined from the demonstrated speed of "standard" boats which are expertly sailed and well equipped and conditioned.
- 5.3 Base Boat Handicap ratings shall be assigned by the Council and published on the ECSA website.
- 5.4 The Chief Handicapper may assign temporary base boat ratings pending review by the Council.
- 5.5 Individual time correction factors shall be determined by adjustments to base boat ratings according to regulations to be established and published by the Council and on other factors on an annual basis.
- 5.6 To qualify for a handicap rating, a boat must be mono-hulled and self-righting.
- 5.7 Any competitor may appeal another competitor's rating, or his own rating by submitting an appeal in writing to the Council using the Appeal form found on the ECSA website. Any appellant may appear before the Council in order to present his appeal. All parties to an appeal shall be advised of the appeal.
- 5.8 The appeal shall include comparative boat data and/or copies of circuit race results as a minimum, along with any other such information as may be requested by the Council. Copies of this information must be submitted with the written request for appeal before any appeal will be scheduled. It is the appellant's responsibility to forward all appeal information to **all** members of Council.
- 5.9 An individual boat's handicap rating may not be appealed by its owner or their surrogate more often than once every three years.
- 5.10 Base-Boat Handicap ratings may be reviewed and then changed following a majority vote of the handicappers' present at any meeting of the Council.
- 5.11 Handicappers or other persons **may not** vote on any handicap rating of a yacht in which they have a substantial interest. A substantial interest shall be defined as an owner, any regular crewmember, a designer, a builder, a sailmaker (with regard to the boat in question), or a competitor that potentially races more than one half of his races against the applicant/appellant.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

- 6.1 Committees as are required shall be appointed by the Chief Handicapper as appropriate.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

- 7.1 These by-laws may be amended by two thirds vote of the Handicappers present at any Council meeting for which notice of intent was mailed to the Council members seven days previously.